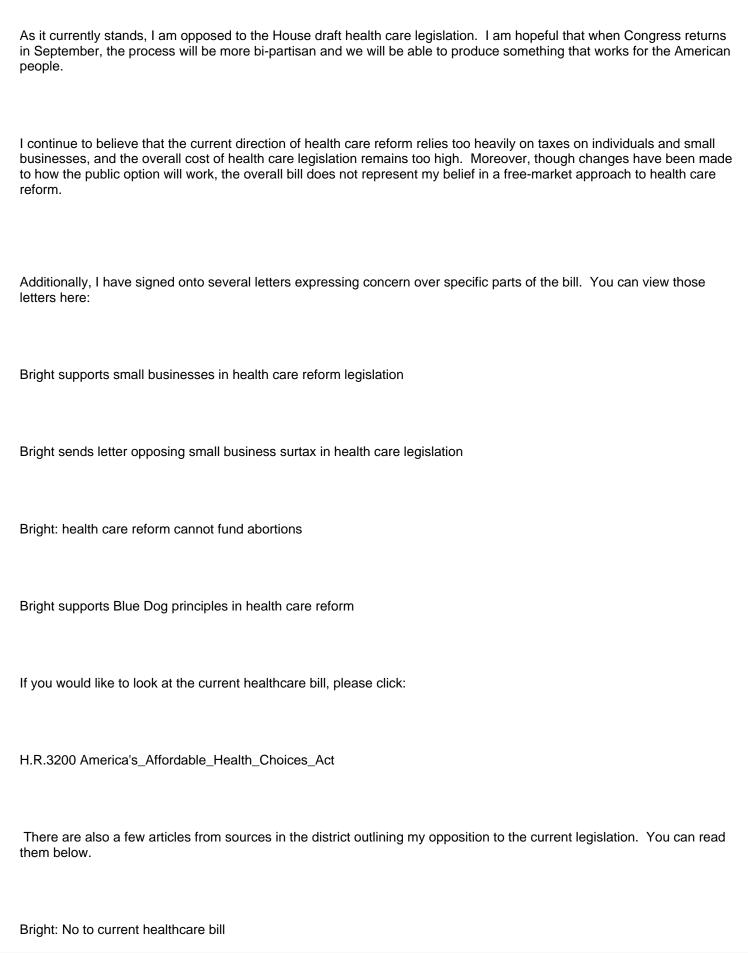
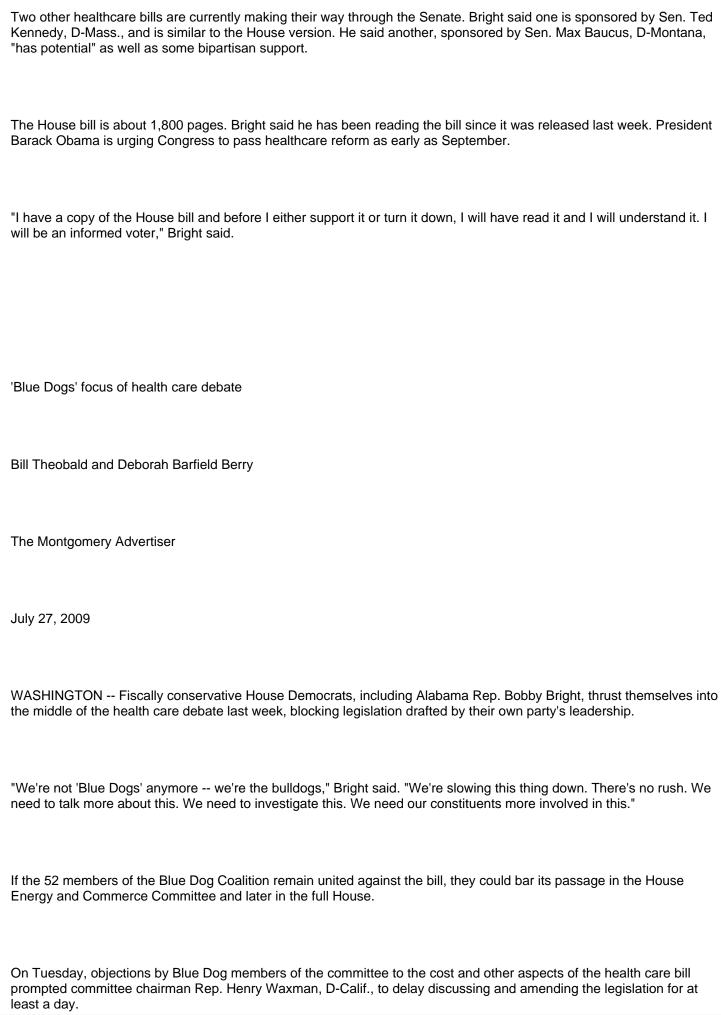
Where I Stand on Health Care Legislation



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Dothan Eagle
July 17, 2009
Congressman Bobby Bright said he will vote against the current House version of the Healthcare Reform Bill unless it changes drastically.
"Not at all, not the way it is now," Bright said during a phone interview with the Dothan Eagle.
Bright said he opposes a "public option" for healthcare reform. According to the current House bill, the public option would be a government subsidized plan that competes alongside current private healthcare plans. Bright said the public option placed too many healthcare decisions in the hands of government officials and could put private plans at a competitive disadvantage.
"I have said this from the beginning, that I would support a healthcare plan that is market driven," Bright said.
Bright said he also opposed tax increases on individuals making more than \$250,000 annually because he believed it would disproportionately affect small business owners.
"For them to try to pay for healthcare reform on the backs of small businesses, I can't support that," he said.
Bright and 21 other members of Congress sent a letter Thursday to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi expressing concern over the tax.
"Especially in a recession, we need to make sure not to kill the goose that will lay the golden eggs of our recovery," the letter stated.



Also Tuesday, President Barack Obama met with Democrats on the committee.
Eight of those Democrats are Blue Dogs, who said they have serious problems with the bill's estimated cost: \$1 trillion over 10 years.
Only one committee Blue Dog, Rep. Jane Harman of California, spoke in favor of the bill.
Members of the Blue Dog Coalition say the House bill:
Wouldn't reduce the growth in health care costs.
Would punish small-business owners by raising taxes on families making more than \$350,000 per year as a way to pay for health care reform.
Would not insure all of the approximately 46 million people without health insurance. The bill would leave about 9 million people uninsured, the Congressional Budget office estimates.
Bright said lawmakers are hearing from constituents who are concerned about the escalating cost of health care and who are "even more frightful that whatever they replace it with might be worse."
"We do have some challenges with the cost and the accessibility of health care right now," said Bright.
Bright said he wouldn't vote for the bill as it's written because he opposes a government-run program, a proposed mandate that businesses provide insurance for workers or pay a payroll tax, and proposed new taxes on individuals and families to help finance health care reform.
He called the mandate "un-American" and said it "creates a tremendous burden" for businesses.

